(iii) installation of additional Electrostatic Precipitator in the Sinter Plant and the Captive Power Plant etc.

Shortage of steel SCRAP

3454. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ministeel plants are facing closure due to shortage of steel scrap;

(b) whether the crisis is likely to lead to a steep fall in production of steel in the country;

(c) the number of mini-steel plants working less than their capacity; and

(d) what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that a large number of ministeel plants are facing closure due to the shortage of steel scrap. However, production of ministeel plants is likely to be adversely affected due to the shortage of steel scrap.

(c) Information regarding the number of ministeel plants working less than the capacity is not readily available. However, the average capacity utilisation of the ministeel plants is expected to be less than in the previous year.

(d) Import of steel melting scrap through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC), has reduced this year due to non-availability of adequate free foreign exchange. Efforts are being made to increase import of scrap through MSTC. The ministeel plants can also make imports directly through the use of Exim Scrips.

Decontrol of Steel prices

3455. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to decontrol the steel prices shortly as a part of the economic liberalisation package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is likely to cover all steel items; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the steps Government propose to take to assess the work-load of the Iron and Steel Controller's Organisation and economise expenditure thereon by pruning the manpower employed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The matter is receiving Government's attention.

(d) The functions and the work of the Office of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel are under periodic review.

SC/ST officials in SAIL

3456. SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Corporate Office and Central Marketing Organisation of Steel Authority of India Limited, Officers belonging to general

category are promoted from E-3 to E-4 in two year's time and officers belonging to SC/ST category are not promoted even after completion of three to four years in E-3;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what is the minimum eligibility period required for promotion from E—3 to E—4 for employees of general category and SC/ST category; and

(c) the number of officers promoted in two years' period from E-3 to E-4 in Corporate Office and Central Marketing Organisation (SAIL) during the years 1990 and 1991 and number of them who belong to SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the promotion policy of Steel Authority of India Limited, which is being followed in Corporate Office as well as Central Marketing Organisation, and applicable to both the general and SC/ST categories of executives, an officer must have a minimum service of 2 years in E-3 scale to be eligible to be considered for promotion to the E-4 scale. Promotions are given on the basis of performance appraisal ratings.

(c) Only one general category employee was promoted from E-3 to E-4 on completion of 2 years service in E-3, in the Corporate Office/Central Marketing Organisation during the years 1990-91.

SAIL contribution for earthquake victims of Uttar Pradesh

3457. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited has contributed a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs towards construction of a stadium in the District of Silchar, Assam; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has contributed Rs. 5 lakhs to the Relief Fund meant for earthquake victims of Uttarkashi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has contributed an amount of Rs. 12 lakhs for construction of one of the blocks of the stadium built by the District Sports Association, Silchar.

(b) Yes, Sir. SAIL has donated G. C. sheets valued at Rs. 5 lakhs towards relief work for the earthquake victims of Uttarkashi.

Iron ore mines in Orissa

3458. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for modernisation in different iron-ore mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), which is a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, has taken up modernisation programme of Bolani Iron Ore Mines in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crores so as to get better quality product. The scheme provides for setting up of an Iron Ore processing plant with facilities of washing of Iron Ore.

Mini steel Plant in Tripura

3459. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a mini steel plant of Rs. 155 crors Uptakhali, Tripura; and

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting Uptakhali for the purpose and the estimated annual production capacity of the proposed plant?